

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE Weekly

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**How justified is it for the caretaker government to amend such sensitive laws as only a few days remain for the next parliament?**

In the recent House of Representatives elections, none of the political parties or political coalitions could ensure a majority to form a government. Among all, the political coalition led by Nepali Congress has the highest number of seats and is working tirelessly to garner remaining seats for the government. The coalition needs 138 seats in total but has only accumulated 135 seats to date. And now, to gain the remaining seats, the coalition is showing a willingness to go to any lengths.

On 11 December 2022, the government sent a letter to the President informing her about the ordinance to amend the National Criminal Procedure (Code) Act 2017, which would grant amnesty to political prisoners. With the amendment, the government aimed to release the leader of Nagarik Unmukti Party, Resham Chaudary who is serving a life sentence for his involvement in the 2015 Tikapur massacre of policemen. The Unmukti Party, which has 3 MPs, has kept his release as a precondition to joining the coalition.

But not just Unmukti Party, the ordinance is likely to benefit the Janamat Party, and CPN (Maoist-Center) whose cadres are serving sentences under the Act for war crimes. The government has justified its actions by stating that it is an effort to foster political unity. But the question is does the caretaker government have the authority to amend such sensitive laws, with only a few days remaining for the next parliament to proceed?

Source: [Nepal Times](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Is waste management only the responsibility of the local government?**

If necessary, the local government can collaborate with the private sector for waste management.

**The flood swept away my home and all important documents too. What should I do to make a new document?**

If the copy is not available elsewhere, the concerned authority should provide a copy of the document after it is verified by the local government on the recommendation of the local disaster management committee.

**As pollution in the lake increased, our business dropped**

The lake used to be crowded with tourists eager to see the reflection of Mt. Machhapuchhre over the lake. With the increase in the number of tourists pollution increased.

Photo from Nepal Times

# FACT SHEET

## Local government's rights regarding the environment, forest, biodiversity, land, and watershed management

Disaster management  
related provision

**12** types of  
explicit powers

Watershed, wildlife,  
and conservation of mines  
related provision

**8** types of  
explicit powers

Forest, water use,  
environment, and biodiversity  
related provision

**26** types of  
concurrent powers

Land management  
related provision

**3** types of  
concurrent powers

All the climate change-related policies and the commitments of the government become meaningless unless the climate actions are integrated into local level plans and programs. The constitution has provided some environment/climate change-related rights to local governments in both explicit and concurrent manner. However, if the local level cannot execute their rights, then the question arises of their responsibility. The local governments need to prepare a practical plan and emphasize the rationale on this matter.

Source: Local Government Operation Act (2017)/NAP (2021-2050)



# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The suspended Chief Justice, Cholendra Shumsher JB Rana retired from the position on 13 December 2022, with an impeachment motion filed against him. The motion had remained pending for 10 months as the parliament failed to address it. There is a growing demand from legal experts and the public that the motion should be settled by the new House of Representatives.

**Read more:** [Annapurna Post](#)



Photo: Annapurna Post



Photo: The Kathmandu Post

Around three dozen human rights organizations in Nepal have written a letter to the President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino to take initiative to ensure compensation to the workers involved in the construction of infrastructure for the ongoing football world cup. The rights bodies wrote to Infantino after the Qatar Government failed to show adequate concern for the compensation.

**Read more:** [The Kathmandu Post](#)

The representation of youths (below 40 years) is three times lower compared to the senior citizens (above 60 years) in the new House of Representatives. The new House has 28 youth lawmakers, among which only 8 are elected under First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system, and 88 senior lawmakers among which 63 are elected under the FPTP system.

**Read more:** [Naya Patrika](#)

## निधिसभामा युवाभन्दा वृद्ध तेब्वर

निधिसभामा ४० वर्षमुनिका २८ युवा र ६० वर्षमाथिका ८८ ज्येष्ठ नागरिकको उपस्थिति, रोचक समानुपातबाट आएका हुन् भने ७१.५९ प्रतिशत ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रत्यक्ष निर्वाचन जितेर संसद्मा पुगेका छन् भने युवाहरूको प्रतिनिधित्व मात्र ४ प्रतिशत छ।

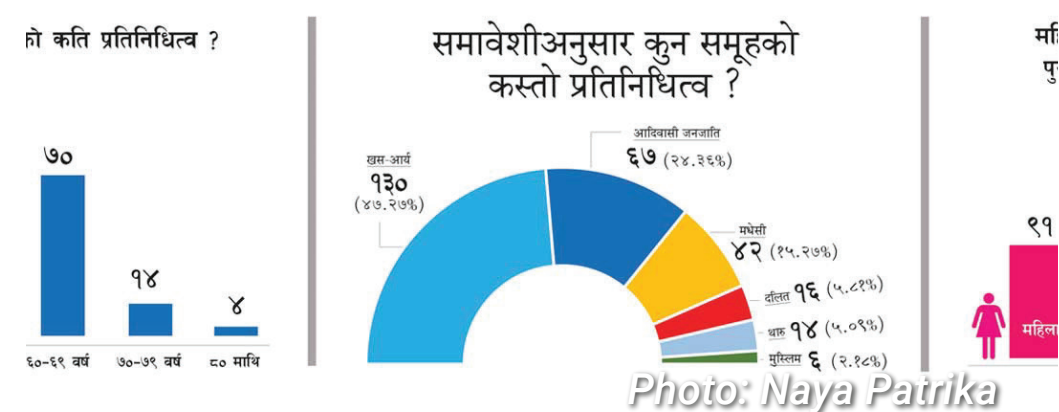


Photo: Kantipur

As per the discussion between the South Korean and Nepali Delegation at the 17th Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Labor Organization, South Korea is set to take 40,000 Nepali workers under the Employment Permit System (EPS) in the next year. The workers will be engaged in the production, construction, and agricultural sectors.

**Read more:** [Kantipur](#)





# Rumors and Facts

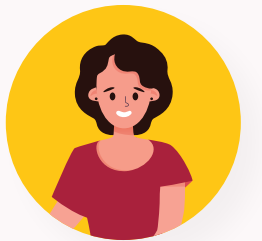
Online



Is waste management only the responsibility of the local government?  
Can't the private sector manage waste by itself?

Every aspect of waste management such as waste collection, translocation, landfill site selection, and waste management is the responsibility of the local government. However, if necessary, the local level can collaborate with the private sector for waste management.

*Source:* <https://cutt.ly/L0mSUT5>



My house was washed away in the flood along with all the documents. What do I do to create a new document?

If any important documents are lost, destroyed, or damaged in any way during floods, landslides, or other disasters, copies of the documents can be requested from relevant other government agencies or associations, or organizations where it has been previously submitted. It is their responsibility to provide that copy. If the copy is not available elsewhere, the relevant agency should provide a copy of the document after it is verified by the local government on the recommendation of the local disaster management committee.

*Source:* <https://cutt.ly/H0mSLS9>



Enter your Message





# VOICES OUT LOUD

## As pollution in the lake increased, our business dropped

My name is Maiya Bhujel. I am now 64 years old. I was born in a village near Phewa Taal. Now I am taking care of my mother by earning through rowing a boat on this lake. My family used to depend on farming. We did not have enough land for farming and it could not cater to our food needs. When there was no other option, my brother sold the land and invested in a boat in Phewa Taal. After that, the whole family took up the boat business. After the death of our father, the brothers separated. Since I did not study when I was young, there were not many options left for learning. I didn't have any other skills except driving a boat. After earning a good amount from boating, I sold the buffaloes at home and added two boats.

In the past 15 years, there have been many changes in Phewatal. Earlier, the area of the lake was large and the water was also clean. I don't remember the lake being dirty, except for 2-3 months during monsoon when the flooding was high.

“

The lake used to be crowded with tourists eager to see the reflection of Mt. Machhapuchhre. As the number of tourists increased, the pollution of the lake gradually increased. With the increase in garbage, the number of tourists started decreasing again. Likewise, our business also slowed down.

”

There is now unseasonal wind and rain in the previously calm lake. Thus, sometimes it becomes impossible to row a boat even once a day. Sometimes, while waiting for my turn, it rains heavily or a strong wind blows and I have to return home without getting to sail. This is reducing our income. In addition, tourists don't like to board my boat, because of my age but there are challenges for other riders too.

I grew up swimming in this lake and later I invested in a boat to earn a living from the same lake. I have spent more than half of my life on this lake. Now, the lake and I, both, are in the same state.



**Maiya Bhujel**



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# GOVERNANCE Weekly

*Nepal Governance Weekly is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around rising accountability issues in Nepal. The current affairs in Nepal demand quick, scientific, and fair information around governance issues. With Nepal Governance Weekly we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for a governance mechanism that is fair and equitable.*

*Issues around gender, climate change, public service, etc. exacerbates a lack of integrity and accountability in governance systems. To help defend democracy in Nepal, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.*

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## DISCLAIMER

*The sources of rumors, news, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and their potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.*

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